

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SPEAKER EVALUATION: CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN BURGER (STAG)

1. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER WAS IN JAPAN ON STAG GRANT FROM JANUARY 26 TO FEBRUARY 2. PRINCIPAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS EVENTS INCLUDED ADDRESSES TO THE SUPREME COURT OF JAPAN AND THE JAPAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY IN TOKYO AND PROGRAM AT AMERICAN CENTER IN KYOTO.

2. IT IS OF COURSE AN UNUSUAL AND WELCOME OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY USIS POST TO PROGRAM CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES. CHIEF JUSTICE IS MOREOVER SUPERB SPEAKER. HIS RICH CONTENT, PERFECT TIMING, PHRASING, AND ADJUSTMENT TO PACE REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION WERE OUTSTANDING.

3. LAW IS DIFFICULT SUBJECT FOR PROGRAMMING IN JAPAN. LAW DEPARTMENTS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN EDUCATION BUT LAWYERS AND SPECIALISTS OF LEGAL PROFESSION ARE PARADOXICALLY FEW IN NUMBER AND NOT ALWAYS CONSIDERED OF HIGH STATUS. THUS ALTHOUGH JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY APPEARANCE ATTRACTED BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF JAPANESE AND AMERICANS INTERESTED IN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, CHIEF JUSTICE'S MOST SUBSTANTIVE COMMUNICATION WAS WITH RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBERS OF SPECIALIST IN JURISPRUDENCE AND JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.

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4. CHIEF JUSTICE AND MEMBERS OF JAPAN'S SUPREME COURT AND OTHER SENIOR JURISTS NATURALLY FOUND GREAT DEAL IN COMMON AND HIS PRESENTATION A GREAT SUCCESS.

5. AT KYOTO AMERICAN CENTER, AUDIENCE OF ABOUT FORTY INCLUDED LEGAL THEORISTS, ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN ANGLO-AMERICAN LAW, AND SITTING JUDGES FROM NAGOYA, KYUSHU, HOKKAIDO AND TOKYO IN ADDITION TO KYOTO/OSAKA AREA. CHIEF JUSTICE'S PRESENTATION WAS VERY EFFECTIVE, AND DISCUSSION WAS ACTIVE AND INFORMED. AUDIENCE AVOIDED PLACING CHIEF JUSTICE IN POSITION OF ADDRESSING DIRECTLY CURRENT ISSUES WHICH MIGHT APPEAR BEFORE SUPREME COURT. SOME CONTEMPORARY QUESTIONS NEVERTHELESS SURFACED IN DISCUSSION, AND CHIEF JUSTICE SHOWED REMARKABLE COMBINATION OF TACT AND FRANKNESS IN RESPONDING WITHOUT AFFECTING HIS, OR THE COURT'S, OBJECTIVITY.

6. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF USIS OPERATIONS, CHIEF JUSTICE'S VISIT PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH KEY PROFESSORS AT LAW DEPARTMENTS OF JAPAN'S NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES. THESE DEPARTMENTS PRODUCE A DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE NUMBER OF JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS. DUE TO NATIONAL AND ACADEMIC POLITICS MANY IMPORTANT LAW DEPARTMENTS HAVE TENDED IN RECENT YEARS TO OFFER COOL WELCOME TO AMERICAN CENTERS. INTEREST IN CHIEF JUSTICE'S VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE OPENED MORE THAN A FEW DOORS. FOR EXAMPLE, SIX LAW PROFESSORS KYOTO UNIVERSITY ATTENDED CENTER PROGRAM FOR FIRST TIME. COMMENTS AFTER PROGRAM ENTHUSIASTIC.

7. OVERALL, ANY POST WHICH HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRAM CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER IS VERY FORTUNATE. SHOESMITH

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